

PATENT**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-21 and 24-32 are pending in the application. In the present response, claims 1, 6, 28, and 32 are amended, claims 5 and 31 are cancelled without prejudice, and new claim 33 has been added.

In the Office Action mailed August 25, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 7-21, 26-29, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Selby (European Patent Application Publication # 0 260 763) in view of Sawyer et al. (US 5,920,814). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In the rejection, the Examiner alleges that Selby teaches the claimed invention except that Selby does not teach that the system assigns a Temporary Mobile Subscriber Identity (TMSI) to the mobile station when it registers in each different service region. The Examiner then alleges that Sawyer teaches this aspect of the invention and that it would have been obvious to incorporate the assignment technique disclosed by Sawyer in the system of Selby to enhance the efficiency of the system by assigning different TMSIs in different zones. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that even assuming (arguendo) that such a combination of these references would be considered to be proper, that neither Selby nor Sawyer teach all of the elements of Applicants' independent claims.

It is Applicants' position that Selby discloses a method to test various channels in turn for satisfactory signal strength, starting with valid ones of those stored in storage means 10 and continuing, if necessary, with those stored in storage means 6. If such a channel is found, then, if the received AREA identification corresponds to a valid identification stored in any field 23 of storage means 10, a return is made at 41, changing the channel stored in the relevant field 23 to the one to which the mobile station is currently tuned, if necessary. On the other hand, if such a channel is found but the received AREA identification does not correspond to a valid identification stored in any field 23 of storage means 10, an attempt is made in step 42 to register in the new area. If the registration attempt fails, and the timer 11 times out before a registration message is received, the transmitter and receiver are turned to the next control channel." (Selby, column 15, line 32-column 16, line 6). As such, Selby discloses a method for testing various channels in turn for satisfactory signal strength and if such a signal strength is determined, to

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determine if an AREA identification corresponds to a valid identification stored and if not then an attempt is made to register with the base station. All of this is to be accomplished, i.e. a "registration accepted" message received from the base station, within a period of time as measured by timer 11.

In particular, it is Applicants' position that Selby does not teach nor suggest Applicants' invention to maintain a first counter to provide an indication to initiate timer-based registration and to initiate the timer-based registration if a value in the first counter exceeds a value. Moreover, Selby fails to disclose to receive a value representative of a maximum expiration period for timer-based registration and to set the timer-based registration count value based on the received value as is substantially claimed in claims 1 and 28 of the present invention. Applicants further submit that Sawyer also fails to disclose maintaining a counter to initiate timer-based registration and initiating the timer-based registration if a value is exceeded or to receive a value representative of a maximum expiration period for timer-based registration and to set the timer-based registration count value based on the received value.

In contrast, Selby discloses a method to accomplish determining a stronger signal and obtaining a "registration accepted" message within a period of time determined by a timer. Applicants' first counter to initiate action for registration is distinct from Selby's disclosure for a method to time-out an action to connect to a stronger signal if a "registration accepted" signal is not received within a time determined by a timer.

Applicants further submit that Selby, even if properly combined with Sawyer, fails to teach or suggest activating a first timer for the first R-TMSI zone upon registration with the second base station; and deactivating a second timer for the second R-TMSI zone upon registration with the second base station as is substantially claimed in claims 24 and 27 of the present invention. Selby does not disclose deactivating a second timer for the second registration zone upon registration with the second network entity. Selby, rather, discloses a method to search for a satisfactory control channel signal strength, where suitable action is taken if a registration record has expired (Selby, column 14, lines 22-31), which is distinct from Applicants' claim to deactivate a second timer for the second registration zone.

As for the Examiner's reference for column 15, line 1-column 21 line 45 to disclose activating a first timer for the first registration zone upon registration with the second network

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entity, Applicants claim activating a first timer for a first R-TMSI zone upon registration with the second base station, that is, such activation/de-activation is coordinated to be at the same time. Selby discloses a method to accomplish determining a stronger signal and obtaining a "registration accepted" message within a period of time determined by a timer. Applicants' activating a first timer upon registration with the second base station is distinct from Selby's disclosure for a method to time-out an action to connect to a stronger signal if a "registration accepted" signal is not received within a time.

Further, Applicants claim the combined activating and de-activating of timers relating to first and second R-TMSI zones by activating a first timer for a first R-TMSI zone upon registration with a second base station and de-activating a timer in the second R-TMSI zone upon registration with the second base station. As such, Applicants claim to block the functioning of a second timer upon activating a first timer while Selby does not disclose such on/off activation of timers.

Therefore, it is Applicants' position that, even if properly combined, Sawyer and Selby do not teach each and every element of Applicants' invention as claimed in claims 1, 24, 27 and 28 and all claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, Applicants submit that these claims are allowable thereover for at least the aforementioned reasons.

The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Selby in view of Sawyer, as applied to claims 5 and 31 above, and further in view of Fehnel (US 6,064,889).

It is Applicants' position that dependent claims 16 and 32 should be patentable for at least the same reasons that their independent claims 1 and 28 are allowable.

PATENT**REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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